

Post 11/21/40

# Ickes Brands Col. Lindbergh A 'Fascist'

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**Father Coughlin,  
Lawrence Dennis  
Also Accused**

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New York, Nov. 20.—Harold L. Ickes, secretary of the interior named Colonel Charles A. Lindbergh, Father Charles E. Coughlin, radio priest of Royal Oak, Mich.; Mervin K. Hart, president of the New York State Economic Council; and Lawrence Dennis, author and lecturer, among the leaders of "native Fascist groups" which he catalogued as "Fifth Columnist" in an address today at the Town Hall, Inc., morning lectures.

Altogether, Ickes said the United States "harbors four large groups that are subversive as to our institutions, and openly hostile, to democracy itself." In addition to the "native Fascist groups such as the Silver Shirts, The Knights of the White Camelia, certain Ku Klux Klans, The Christian Front etc.," he listed the "German-American Bund," the "Italian Fascists," and "The Communists and Their Fellow travelers."

The secretary said there was no evidence of a general headquarters in this country for the "Fifth Columnists" but he believed there was "a loose united front along among them" and "much evidence indicates the existence of a totalitarian tie-up in this country."

"Most, perhaps even all, of these groups are instrumentalities of foreign intrigue," he said. "Most, perhaps even all, are financed by funds from abroad. They engage themselves in espionage, and are even ready to sabotage our efforts to supply England with war materials and to arm ourselves. All of them are enemies of America and believers in totalitarianism."

### Cautions Against Hysteria

While not reporting on the Government's activities against intrigue, Ickes cautioned against "hysteria" and "professional patrioteers." He added: "The rights of a free press and free speech and free assemblage are particularly important at a time like this. We must show those rights the reverence that is their due—the reverence of respect and compliance."

There was a gasp from the audience of Town Hall lecture subscribers, composed mostly of women, as Ickes in his paid lecture mentioned Col. Lindbergh. There was applause and hisses as he remarked that the famous aviator "has had neither the training nor the experience to qualify him as an international statesman."

He said Hart, "misses few occasions to sneer at democracy" and Lawrence Dennis, he termed "the brains of American Fascism." He recalled that this former United States Embassy secretary had written the book, "The Coming American Fascism."

He described the German-American Bund as "Hitler's chief organization in the United States" and estimated "it has 25,000 well-drilled members and 71 cells that are strategically located in industrial centers and near munitions plants." In addition, he said, "there are tens of thousands of unaffiliated Nazis in this country."